



## **Public school construction program pumping \$2.6 billion into Orange County economy**

*July 1, 2020* - A new report by PFM Group Consulting has found that from 2014 to 2021, the economic impact of the public school construction program in Orange County will be \$2.27 billion. That impact includes an average 1,930 jobs per year. When the additional impact of projects that maintain existing schools is included, the total impact is \$2.6 billion, with an average of 2,155 jobs a year.

Orange County Public Schools has one of the largest and most successful school construction programs in the nation. From 2003 through 2021, the district will have opened 59 new schools to accommodate growth and relieve overcrowding. An additional 132 schools will have been replaced or renovated. The aggressive construction plan is possible thanks to the support of the community through the half-penny sales tax extended by voters in 2014, plus residential development impact fees and property taxes.

The impact of 2020 construction projects alone is \$292.2 million and 1,907 jobs. These projects remain on schedule despite the economic downturn:

- A \$14.8 million comprehensive renovation of Acceleration West, an alternative high school.
- A new auditorium, gym and cafeteria at Boone HS for \$31.0 million
- A \$47.6 million new campus for Magnolia School and a new ESE Learning Center
- A \$24.9 million comprehensive renovation of Southwest MS
- Three replacements of existing elementary schools: Pinar ES (\$20 million) Rolling Hills ES (\$20.1 million) and Winegard ES (\$23.1 million)
- Three new elementary schools to relieve overcrowding: Summerlake ES (\$24.3 million), Sunshine ES (\$24.3 million) and Vista Pointe ES (\$25.5 million)

Three new schools in Southwest Orange County that opened last year were also part of this program – Castlevue ES, Horizon West MS and Water Spring ES. Two new high schools opening in 2021 to relieve Dr. Phillips, Freedom and Windermere high schools were also included in these calculations.

*(For more information, please contact Lauren Roth at 407.317.3774 or [lauren.roth@ocps.net](mailto:lauren.roth@ocps.net))*

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